
	North Carolina Department of Commerce Division of Workforce Solutions
	DWS Policy Statement Number: PS 12-2018
	Date: November 20, 2018
	Subject: NCWorks Local Innovation Fund Grants
	From:  Daniel L. Giddens Assistant Secretary for Workforce

Purpose: To announce the availability of NCWorks Local Innovation Fund Grants.

Background: As part of Governor Roy Cooper's NC Job Ready initiative, the \$2 million Local Innovation Fund will finance grants in communities to pilot innovative programs or adapt and replicate successful program models that address local and/or regional workforce issues.

The fund will support projects that do one or more of the following:

- Address an underserved community or population currently disconnected from the education and workforce system;
- Bring together diverse community organizations;
- Increase educational attainment; and
- Develop talent pipelines for in-demand, high-wage occupations.

Two types of grants will be available:

- One-year "capacity grants" of up to \$100,000 to assist communities that need additional capacity building to strengthen partnerships, identify community needs and resources, and build local support; and
- Two-year "implementation grants" of up to \$400,000 to assist communities that already have a collaborative team and an innovative idea ready for implementation, and have built the local support needed to be successful.

Action: Applicants for the NCWorks Local Innovation Fund must consist of partnerships of multiple organizations that will actively support the work of the grant. Each partnership must include the local workforce development board, as well as education, community, labor, and business leaders.

The local workforce development board, which will receive the funds for the partnership, will serve as the financial administrator and be responsible for the appropriate use of the funds.

Fund expenditures must follow DWS Financial Management Policy PS 20-2017 and Procurement and Contracting Policy PS 21-2017.

Project participants must be enrolled in a Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act program and entered into NCWorks Online. All participants will be included in State performance measures as identified by the United States Department of Labor.

The complete NCWorks Local Innovation Fund application and attachments can be found at:

<https://www.nccommerce.com/workforce/about-us/networks-commission/local-innovation-fund>

Applications must be completed and submitted by November 30, 2018.

Effective Date: Immediately

Expiration: April 20, 2021

Contact: NCWorks Commission Staff